

What is claimed is:

1. A Christmas tree stand comprising:

a base for supporting said stand above a ground level; and

a shell having a lateral surface, said shell disposed atop said base so as to define an inner volume, said shell housing electrical components within said inner volume, said shell having a plurality of holes disposed on a top portion of said lateral surface, said holes providing ventilation between said inner volume and an outside environment, said shell having a flange overhanging said top portion of said lateral surface so as to shield said holes.

2. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 1 wherein said shell further comprises:

a body including said lateral surface, said body having an upper rim and a plurality of notches cut from said lateral surface along said body at said upper rim; and

a cover including a bottom surface and said flange, said cover disposed atop said upper rim of said

body, said holes defined by said notches and said bottom surface of said cover.

3. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 1 wherein said base and said shell are constructed of molded plastic.

4. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 1 wherein said cover further includes a receptacle for holding said Christmas tree.

5. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 4 wherein said receptacle further comprises an optically transparent cap disposed at a bottom of said receptacle, and said electrical components include a lamp, a color wheel and a motor to rotate said color wheel, said lamp, color wheel and optically transparent cap disposed in optical alignment with each other so as to provide a light source at said bottom of said receptacle.

6. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 1 wherein said base includes an elevated surface and a

support structure for supporting said elevated surface above said ground level, said elevated surface defining one surface of said inner volume.

7. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 6 wherein said support structure includes a plurality of legs.

8. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 1 wherein said base is shaped as a truncated frustum.

9. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 1 wherein said base further includes a connector for providing an electrical coupling to said electrical components.

10. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 6 wherein said base further includes a bottom surface disposed on said ground level, said bottom surface including a wire channel for accommodating wires for connection to said connector.

11. The Christmas tree stand according to claim 5 wherein said base further includes a mounting for supporting said color wheel, said motor and said lamp within said inner volume.